

The Friends of Old Saint Thomas

Thanks to parishioners' and others' steadfast financial and prayerful support since 1991, FOST's major goals have been accomplished. Along with the support of pastors Rev. Richard C. Williams and Rev. Francis P. Groarke, we have worked to restore and maintain the 1852 Church, the 1874 Rectory and the grounds of the Saint Thomas Historic District, and to spread the word about our unique parish history.

In fact, nearly all of FOST's 1852 Church restoration work has been completed. Most recently, the basement walls were repaired, the attic was insulated, and a self-guided tour and history brochure was printed (available in the Narthex). Four other projects will be finished in the next few weeks, including (1) installation of the final donor recognition plaques*; (2) replacement of the priests' sacristy flooring; (3) directional signage for the entry driveways to the 1852 Church (Chapel); and (4) installation of exterior lighting of the steeple.

The Committee recognizes now that our work is as complete as possible. Addressing maintenance, repairs, and other restoration projects is best left to future stewards. We are hopeful that others will continue to make known Saint Thomas parish's formative role in local, Pennsylvania, and national history. For that purpose, we expect that the most essential historical papers, photos and parish artifacts will be safely stored for future reference at the Archdiocesan Historical Research Center and at the Saint Thomas Parish Center.

Thus, as of June 30, 2020, the Friends of Old Saint Thomas has ceased as a parish ministry. Any donations received after June 30 will be returned. A new ministry, the **Chapel Friends of Old Saint Thomas**, will continue cleaning, gardening, simple maintenance, bell-ringing, and wedding facilitation.

Heartfelt thanks one last time from all FOST Committee members: Anne Docherty, Fred Glessner, Trish Glessner, Kathy McNichol, Bette Popiel, Vice-Chair, Philip Popiel, Marianne Squyres, Chair, and Mike Squyres, Treasurer. It has been an extraordinary privilege for us to work with you to preserve our special place that we shared with Saint John Neumann.

* For donations received before December 31, 2020.

July 3, 2020